

CAN'T COUNT 'EM

Thousands of Turkeys Fatten on Farm at Turner

By CLAUDE STEUSLOFF

"Neent matawna" (more than we can count), answered an Indian more than 300 years ago to an inquiry as to the number of wild turkeys roaming the woods of Plymouth Colony, Massachusetts.

Gath Bros., of Turner, largest Marion county turkey growers and one of three leaders in Oregon, might make a similar reply today.

A census of America's favorite Thanksgiving fowl on the 400-acre Gath farm totals between 18,000 and 19,000 birds. More than 5,000 of these are breeding hens.

Six new permanent buildings have been erected at the farm this year on quite widely separated locations. They include four roosting houses, each 100 by 30 feet, for the laying hens. A 160 by 50 foot radiant heated brooder house will handle 10,000 poults. An egg packing house, equipped with refrigeration, will care for the egg production, about half of which is shipped to the middle west and the remainder to local hatcheries.

Broad Breasted Bronze turkeys have been largely responsible for the sudden development of the turkey business from a casual holiday trade farm sideline to a major enterprise in Oregon agriculture. Concentrating on meat and heavy fleshing rather than coloring and feathers, Oregon and Washington breeders in less than 20 years have developed a bird having 10 to 15 per cent more breast and leg meat than the old Bronze turkey.

Jesse Throssel of British Columbia exhibited some massive Sheffield Bronze turkeys at the 1930 Pacific International Livestock Exposition in Portland. Ward Cockeram of Oakland, Joe Kupetz of Eugene, Herman O'Dell, another Oregon breeder, and R. D. Mitchell, Oak Harbor, Wash., who crossed toms from the Throssel flock with their own Bronze hens were early developers of the Broad Breasted Bronze.

Usona Thiessen of Thiessen Turkey Hatchery, Salem, was one of the first breeders in this area. Miss Thiessen has been breeding Broad Breasted Bronze since 1936 and is now doing Record of Performance work which embraces records of egg production, hatchability and body weight made under official U. S. supervision.

Though the Broad Breasted Bronze is not listed in the American Standard of Perfection for turkeys it is generally considered a separate breed and furnishes 90 per cent of the entries in the Northwest Turkey Show, oldest turkey show in America, held annually at Roseburg. When six months of age both sexes of the breed must be three and one-half inches wide at a point one and three-quarters inches below the top of the keel. Toms must weigh over 22 pounds and hens more than 14 pounds.

The turkey laying season runs from about January 10 to May 10, production per hen being 50 to 60 eggs per season. Some operators have sold as high as \$11 worth of eggs per hen, income to Oregon producers from both eggs and poults being five to six million dollars annually. Toms are so assiduous in their domestic duties that fertility drops as much as 30 per cent during the mating season, one of many basic turkey breeding problems now being studied at the Oregon State college poultry husbandry department. Around 260,000 hens are now on Oregon farms, Marion county being leading county in the state, followed by Yamhill and Clackamas counties.

Most poults are hatched in April and May, to be marketed at six to seven months of age. This year, 1,600,000 Oregon turkeys will find their way to dining tables all over the world, Marion county will produce 300,000 of them. This phase of the industry annually brings in 15 million dollars to the state.

A turkey approaching maturity eats more than a pound of concentrated feed per day and in favorable seasons has returned a profit of three to four dollars to the grower. In leaner seasons, such as this year, profit may drop to 50 cents per head but the owner has use of the bird through the growing and feeding season. Resulting fertilizer is unusually high in nitrogen. One season of running turkeys on a worn-out field at the Gath place which had been producing only 15 bushels of grain per acre increased the yield to 57 bushels per acre.

Gaths have a rotation of one year with turkeys followed by two years with sheep on all their fields. On both the Thiessen and Gath farms rolling wooded hills give shade protection from summer heat and shelter from winter winds, two of the prime requisites for turkey comfort. Oregon's 300 turkey breeders are organized in the Oregon Turkey Improvement association. Formed in July, 1940, its prime objective is to improve and standardize Broad Breasted Bronze breeding flocks.

If you have an ice cream scoop you've been using all summer don't put it away now that colder weather is here. It's an excellent tool to keep around the kitchen with which to serve mashed potatoes, tuna fish or salmon salad, or cottage cheese.

Four Corners Teen Agers Enjoy Halloween Parties

Four Corners, Oct. 31—Many pre-Halloween parties have held the small fry and teen-age interest. On Thursday afternoon, Brownie troop 147, with their leaders, Mrs. Robert Burns and Mrs. Earl Thulin, met at the Community hall. A rag-bag costume style show was the main event with prizes for the best costume. Barbara Burns and Kathy Snook were hostesses for the day.

Thursday night at 8 o'clock at the Community hall, Mrs. Al Beckman of Salem will be the guest speaker. Topic "Chrysanthemums". There will be special music. Hostesses for the evening will be Mrs. Waldo Miller, Mrs. Henry Benz, Mrs. Ravid Behm, Mrs. Jess McInay, Mrs. Homer Bales.

\$40,000 Tax Liens Filed Against Late KKK Head

Atlanta, Oct. 31 (AP)—Federal tax liens amounting to nearly \$40,000 were on file today against the estate of the late Dr. Samuel Green, who was imperial wizard of the Georgia Ku Klux Klan.

Collector of Revenue Marion Allen said Green owed \$3,797 for 1944 income taxes; \$11,900 for 1945; \$10,851 for 1946; \$7,829 for 1947 and \$5,800 for 1948.

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Turkeys Come in Thousands—Gath Bros., of Turner, have to guess at the number of turkeys on their farm, and you don't wonder about that when you look at the picture at the top. They figure it's between 18,000 and 19,000. The center picture shows Lester Hagedorn, Edward Gath and Harry Baker clipping wings so the big birds won't fly away. Bottom left are shown Harry Long and Arthur Gath debeaking the turkeys so they won't become damaged by pecking, and in the bottom right the turkeys are being vaccinated by Vernice Williams and Harry Long.

Unusual Accidents Bring First Aid Men

Carving pumpkins to make jack-o-lanterns resulted in injuries and first aid calls for two Salem residents Saturday. Dick Powers, 14, who lives at 48 Abrams avenue, severed the tendon of a finger on his left hand when the carving knife slipped. Mrs. Pete McCaffery, 1775 Grant street, cut an artery in a finger in a similar manner. Another first aid call for an unusual kind of accident was for Elmer Steinbrook, Bligh hotel resident. He was opening a keg of beer at the Pioneer club when the plunger flew up and hit him in the eye. He was taken to a hospital, but released as soon as the eye was cared for.

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Week Devoted To Brotherhood Too Much Love; Kills Admirer

National and local leaders of Brotherhood week, to be observed next February 19-26 under the auspices of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, will launch plans for the nation-wide observances at a luncheon meeting to be held on Friday November 11, at the Mayflower hotel, Washington, D.C. President Truman will deliver a major address at the assembly which is expected to attract more than 1000 representatives of communities from every state in the Union, according to Judge Joseph B. Felton, Brotherhood week chairman for Salem. The audience will also include cabinet members, supreme court justices, members of the senate and house, state governors, mayors, and leaders in the fields of religion, education, business and industry. The Oregon chapter is asking Senator Wayne Morse and Joseph K. Carson of the U.S. maritime commission to represent it at the meeting, stated Judge Felton. Brotherhood week has been observed every year since 1934 and is conducted by the national conference to emphasize the nation's democratic heritage, and to remind men of all creeds and races that they share a common destiny.

Halloween Dance
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